

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraphs, in which the changes are indicated by underlining and strikethrough:

[0014] From FR-A-1 292 254, a membrane-compressor is known, that has a working membrane and a supplemental membrane, which define a membrane interspace therebetween. The known membrane-compressor includes a pressurized inlet channel that is connected to the membrane interspace. With the help of the inlet channel, a pressure is created in the membrane interspace that supports the working membrane and which lies between atmospheric pressure and the discharge pressure. In order to control the membrane interspace desired pressure and to be able to reduce the standing pressure on the pressurized side of the compressor, a nozzle is located in the inlet channel. The idea of a pressure discharge is not desired in the compressor known from FR-A- 1 292 254.

SUMMARY

[0016] ~~Accomplishing this~~ The object in accordance with the invention is accomplished with a membrane pump of the type mentioned at the beginning, especially with the characteristics ~~of claim 1~~ according to the invention.

[0030] It is especially advantageous if the operating membrane is configured as a shaped membrane with the upper side of the conveying space sided membrane being form-fitted to the contour of the conveying space in the upper dead center of the pump specified by the pump head.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following new paragraphs:

[0039.1] Figure 8 shows a two-stage membrane pump arrangement in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0049] Figure 8 shows a two stage pump arrangement in accordance with the invention, in which the pump 101 as described above forms the first stage, and a known prior art membrane pump, such as the pump 106 as described above, forms the second stage. An appropriate connection is provided between the outlet of the first stage pump 101 and the inlet 8 of the second stage pump 106.